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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, July 1, 2016, at 9 a.m.

Senate

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 2016

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God, our deliverer, as the tragedy in Turkey reminds us of the dangerous, discordant, and demonic forces in our world, we look to You, our light and salvation. Show us how to please You as we remember that righteousness exalts a nation, and sin destroys.

May our lawmakers make obedience to You the bottom line in their labors. Teach them to know and comply with Your commands as they never forget that obedience brings blessings. Lord, give them the wisdom to make an absolute commitment to honor You above all else. Provide them with the strength to defeat temptation as they remember that You provide a way of escape from every test. Equip them for whatever task and challenges they must tackle.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PAUL). The majority leader is recognized.

TERROR ATTACK IN ISTANBUL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday our NATO ally Turkey suffered a devastating terror attack at Istanbul's main airport that quickly brought to mind ISIL's attack in Brussels earlier this year.

We do not know yet if this attack was launched by ISIL or the PKK, but we do know that our intelligence community will do all it can to help the Turks combat terrorism and defeat this threat. As CIA Director John Brennan reminded us all earlier this month, "[D]espite all of our progress against ISIL on the battlefield and in the financial realm, our efforts have not reduced the group's terrorism capability and its global reach."

In recent days Turkey has taken diplomatic steps to improve bilateral relations with Russia and Israel, and now the United States must extend its hand to our NATO partners and assure them that we will stand with them in the face of this attack and work together to defeat ISIL.

ZIKA VIRUS AND VA-MILCON FUNDING BILL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, let me read some headlines.

"Senate Democrats block Zika agreement ahead of recess."

"Senate Dems block House Zika funding."

That last article goes on to say: "Senate Democrats . . . blocked a critical funding measure needed to combat the spreading Zika virus, a move that will now make it impossible for Congress to send legislation to President Obama before July 4."

Our Democratic friends are working hard to spin this, but families don't want excuses, they want action. Yesterday, Senate Democrats listened to the demands of a partisan special interest group and turned their backs on women's health and fighting Zika. First, they demanded congressional action on Zika. Then, in the midst of mosquito season, Democrats chose partisan politics over \$1.1 billion in critical funds to protect pregnant women and babies from Zika—after the Democrats voted for the same \$1.1 billion funding level just last month.

Yesterday, Senate Democrats listened to the demands of a partisan special interest group and turned their backs on supporting our veterans. First, they demanded more funding for veterans. Then, just before the Fourth of July, Democrats chose partisan politics over significantly increasing resources for veterans' health care.

In the coming days, Democrats will hear from constituents back home who want to know what they are doing to keep them safe from the threat of Zika and what they are doing to support our veterans. Democrats will have to explain why they chose not to do their job and instead blocked funding for the Zika crisis and for our Nation's heroes.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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